



## Life Group Studies 2024

### Andy Buchan – Why Genesis?

The beginning of the great story of salvation sets the scene for life, Who it is that we belong to (and are created to reflect) and our great need for Christ. These opening chapters certainly contain a degree of majesty and mystery to them, along with beauty and ugliness! We need them to make sense of our own experience of life. We need them to shape our worldview into one that is biblical, Christ-centred and hope-filled.

God is revealed as the Almighty Creator of the cosmos, the sustainer and owner of every aspect of life, Who sees and knows all things. Rather than being distant and unknowable, he reveals Himself to humanity and even walks and talks in the place that He has made!

The gradual sequence has a goal. The pinnacle of this good, orderly creation is humanity, to whom God provides food, beauty, work, companionship and marriage. Disobedience and sin bring spiritual alienation and death. It fosters further relational carnage; a spiralling tragedy that impacts generation after generation. There is hope, however, as God's judgment concerning sin is also met with God's mercy - and a promise of One who would one day come (Gen 3:15).

The Bible is best understood backwards. The end makes sense of the beginning. God intends the whole story to point us to Christ, his true image-bearer. Jesus is the second Adam, the perfectly obedient Son, the Word made flesh. It is the Lord Jesus who crushes the head of the serpent, defeats death once and for all, and leads His people to the great restoration to come.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

[The Book of Genesis Summary](#) (Bible Project Overview)

*The First Chapters of Everything* – Alasdair Paine (Christian Focus Publications, 2014)

Questions and Answers – [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org) and [christianity.net.au](http://christianity.net.au) both have extensive lists!

[A Reformed Approach to Science and Scripture](#) – Keith Mathison (Ligonier Ministries).

## SELECTED SONGS FOR GENESIS - YouTube links

[All Creatures of Our God and King](#) (Sovereign Grace Music)

[King Forevermore / God the Uncreated One](#) (Aaron Keyes / Getty)

[Only a Holy God](#) (Cityalight)

[Lord, Have Mercy](#) (Sovereign Grace Music)

[Lord Have Mercy](#) (Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Aaron Keys, and James Tealy)

## SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

[Beginnings: a playlist from the book of Genesis](#)



## OUR WORLD BELONGS TO GOD - CREATION

7. Our world belongs to God—

not to us or earthly powers,

not to demons, fate, or chance.

The earth is the Lord's.

8. In the beginning, God—

Father, Word, and Spirit—

called this world into being

out of nothing, and gave it shape and order.

9. God formed sky, land, and sea;

stars above, moon and sun,

making a world of color, beauty, and variety—

a fitting home for plants and animals, and us—

a place to work and play,

worship and wonder,

love and laugh.

God rested and gave us rest.

In the beginning, everything was very good.

10. Made in God's image

to live in loving communion with our Maker,

we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers

to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors.

God uses our skills for the unfolding and well-being of his world

so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.

11. Together, male and female,  
single and married, young and old—  
every hue and variety of humanity—  
we are called to represent God,  
for the Lord God made us all.  
Life is God's gift to us,  
and we are called to foster the well-being of all the living,  
protecting from harm the unborn and the weak, the poor and the vulnerable.

12. Even now, as history unfolds  
in ways we know only in part,  
we are assured that God is with us in our world,  
holding all things in tender embrace and bending them to his purpose.  
The confidence that the Lord is faithful  
gives meaning to our days and hope to our years.  
The future is secure, for our world belongs to God.

From "[Our World Belongs to God: a Contemporary Testimony](#)" (CRC North America).



# STUDY ONE

## GENESIS 1:1-2:3

< START HERE >



**OPENING QUESTION:** What do you particularly love about God's creation and why?

### READ 1:1-2

Who are we introduced to in the first two verses of the Bible?

Read **Job 38:4, Psalm 19:1 and John 1:1** – how does this give us a fuller picture of these opening verses?

In what sense do these verses connect to you?

### READ 1:3-31

What patterns do you notice? Why do you think they are important?

What distinctions are evident in the days of creation?

Which worldviews do you think this chapter challenges or corrects today?

Why do you think humans feature as the pinnacle of the creation account?

### READ 2:1-3

What is the purpose of the seventh day of creation?

How do you think the concept of 'rest' connects to the ministry and person of Jesus?

See **Hebrews 4:1-4; 9-10**. What does rest look like today and in the future?

**See also:** Psalm 33:6-9; 104, Colossians 1:15-17, Hebrews 1:1-3, Revelation 22:1-5.

[ **Bonus question:** How does the Bible's story as a whole connect to its beginning? ]

**Prayer:** Praise God for his amazing creation and how he fits us in his plans for this world.



# STUDY TWO

## GENESIS 2:4-25



**OPENING QUESTION:** What do you enjoy most about life at home?

### READ 4-7

How do you think this account relates to the opening chapter of Genesis?

What's the significance of God's breathing in the creation of man?

### READ 8-17

What were the trees for? (v9)

What purpose do verses 10-14 serve here?

Why did God put Adam in the garden?

How might the garden be related to the temple?

### READ 18-25

Why do you think it was "not good that man should be alone?" (v18). How will Eve help?

What does this tell us about our equality as men and women? (see also 1:26-27)

What differences in roles are men and women designed with?

**Application:** How does this chapter speak to today's world? (in our understanding of creation, our relationships, and how we relate to God).

**See also:** Ephesians 5:22-33, Matthew 19:3-6. [ **Bonus Question:** How is the bible's view of marriage different to the world's standards today? ]

**Prayer:** Praise God that we can enter his presence because of Jesus. Pray for one another in light of what you've discovered here.



# STUDY THREE

## GENESIS 3:1-24



**OPENING QUESTION:** Genesis 1-3 explains the tension we live in today.  
What is right and wrong with the world today?

### READ 1- 13

What are the serpent's tactics here?

What happened as a result of their disobedience? How does God deal with them?

When have you been tempted to ignore or disobey God's Word?

### READ 14-19

How is verse 15 a gospel verse? (sometimes called the *proto-evangelium* or 'first-gospel').

Describe the consequences for the woman and the man.

How are they still a feature of your life today?

### READ 20-24

What do you notice in these verses?

How is all this undone in the work of Jesus? (i.e. see Revelation 22:1-2, Colossian 2:13-15).

**Application:** How does this chapter reflect your life? What hope is there for you?

**Prayer:** Spend time in repentant prayer, thanking God for the forgiveness and freedom from sin and death that Jesus has secured.



# STUDY FOUR

## GENESIS 4:1-26



**OPENING QUESTION:** Education is the primary cure to our society's problems. Discuss whether this is true – why or not!

### READ 1-16

What was wrong with Cain's sacrifice?

What warning is there for all of us in verse 7?

How does God deal with Cain?

Cain went to the land of 'wandering' (Nod), away from God's presence. How is that a reality even with people today?

### READ 17 -22

What sorts of activities do the descendants of Cain get involved in?

How is God's grace a factor here?

Explain the tension between human sinfulness and our God-given purpose.

### READ 23-26

How might the sin of Lamech compare with that of Cain?

What does this chapter reveal about the nature of sin and how it spread?

What does it mean to 'call upon the name of the Lord' (v26)?

**Application:** What hope does this chapter hold even for today? What could you share with a non-Christian friend as a result of this?

**Prayer:** Spend time 'calling upon the name of the Lord' – seeking his guidance, wisdom & grace for your life and others you know.





# STUDY FIVE

## GENESIS 5:1-32



**OPENING QUESTION:** How long do you expect to live? What family history plays a part in your answer? (Discuss!)

### READ 1-32

Who's the oldest person you've met?! Did they share their secret to longevity? What challenges did they face?

Why are the ages here different to our experience today? (clue: Genesis 6:3 - but with some exceptions after the flood)

What do we have in common with their experience?

Why do you think the bible lists genealogies like this? (see Luke 3:23-38)

What is special about Enoch's experience? (see 2 Kings 2:1-12, Hebrews 11:5)

1 Corinthians 15:26 says 'the last enemy to be destroyed is death' - how is that made possible?

Looking back over these studies in Genesis 1-5, what has stood out to you? What purpose do you think they serve in the story of Scripture? How do they help in understanding our experience of life today?

**Application:** What hope do you have in facing the reality of your death?

**Prayer:** Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-56 and pray for each other in light of this glorious truth.